(d) The DG of the Force has powers to divert vacancies from one State to another if adequate number of persons are not available in one State.

Special assistance to Tamil Nadu

619. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that border States are given special assistance because of their vulnerability and need for patrolling etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that Tamil Nadu is having a long open coast that is vulnerable warranting strict visit round the clock; and

(c) whether Government would provide special assistance to Tamil Nadu in view of the additional cost involved in protecting the coast, on the line of border States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There is no scheme for providing assistance to the border States in general, specifically because of their vulnerability and the need for patrolling.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of the vulnerability of the country's coasts including that of Tamil Nadu to illegal cross border activities. Assistance to Government of Tamil Nadu for protecting the coast will be possible after the coastal security scheme proposed for the coastal States has been finally approved by the Government.

Relief to tackle natural calamities

620. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to tide over the recurrent natural calamities like drought and floods, on different parts of the country in general and Andhra Pradesh, in particular;

(b) whether Government have set up any Committee to rush relief for the affected States in time;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?